

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO
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AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

S E C R E T AMMAN 7759

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: FPRO, JO
SUBJECT: JORDANIAN DEMARCHE ON ISRAELI DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM FOR
GREATER JERUSALEM AREA

REF: USUN 3551 (SECTO 20)

1. SUMMARY: AS LEAD-OFF TO SEPARATE DEMARCHES TO UK, USSR,
AND FRANCE, GOJ HAS ASKED USG TO TAKE ACTION TO STOP ISRAELI
CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES IN GREATER JERUSALEM AREA, WHICH GOJ
CLAIMS ARE AIMED AT CUTTING JERUSALEM OFF FROM REST OF WEST BANK
AND, IN EFFECT, AT ELIMINATING PROSPECT OF ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL
FROM AREA IN AND AROUND JERUSALEM OCCUPIED IN 1967 WAR. GOJ WOULD
LIKE USG RESPONSE. REQUEST GUIDANCE. END SUMMARY.

2. JORDANIAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS
SADIQ AS SHARI CALLED IN CHARGE DECEMBER 30 AND SAID THAT
AT INSTRUCTION OF PRIME MINISTER RIFAI HE WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT
MEMORANDUM (FORWARDED BY SEPTTEL) EXPRESSING JORDANIAN GOVERNMENT'S
CONCERN OVER CURRENT ISRAELI ACTIVITIES IN GREATER JERUSALEM AREA.

3. SHARI SAID GOJ HAD ENOUGH CAUSE FOR CONCERN OVER PAST
ISRAELI ACTIVITIES IN JERUSALEM SUCH AS DESTRUCTION OF RELIGIOUS

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SHRINES, INDIRECT UNDERMINING OF OTHER MONUMENTS THROUGH

EXCAVATIONS AND "EXPULSION" OF PERSONS. HOWEVER LARGE SCALE NEW CONSTRUCTION PROGRAM NOW THREATENS TO CUT JERUSALEM EFFECTIVELY OFF FROM THE REST OF THE WEST BANK AND THUS MAKE MORE DIFFICULT ANY EFFORTS TO SECURE ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL FROM THE AREA OF ARAB JERUSALEM AND ENVIRONS OCCUPIED IN 1967 WAR. THIS WOULD BE A SEVERE SET-BACK FOR PROSPECTS OF PEACE.

4. SHARI SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED INDUSTRIAL PARK ON 4,000 DUNUM AREA AT KHAN AL AHMAR SOUTH OF CITY (WHERE HE SAID WORK HAS ALREADY STARTED), CONSTRUCTION 40,000 APARTMENT UNITS IN FRENCH HILL AREA NORTH OF JERUSALEM, AND CREATION OF PARK IN CATHOLIC AND SYRIAC CONVENT AREAS OUTSIDE OLD CITY.

5. SHARI SAID GOJ IS CONVOKING UK, USSR AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS IN SEPARATE MEETINGS TOMORROW IN SIMILAR DEMARCHE AND IS ALSO SENDING SAME INFORMATION TO GOJ MISSION AT UN. HOWEVER, GOJ WISHED TO PRESENT INFORMATION FIRST TO USG BECAUSE OF OUR MUTUAL FRIENDSHIP AND BECAUSE USG, BY VIRTUE OF ITS POSITION AND POWER, HAS GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR EXERTING CONSTRUCTIVE EFFORTS ON JERUSALEM PROBLEM. SHARI REITERATED GOJ'S APPEAL TO U.S. "AS A FRIEND" TO EXERT EFFORTS TO STOP THESE MASSIVE ISRAELI PLANS, WHICH, IF CARRIED THROUGH, WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY SET BACK THE CAUSE OF PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST. SHARI SAID THE GOJ WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME ANSWER FROM THE USG ON THIS QUESTION.

6. IN RESPONSE, CHARGE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR BEING INFORMED IN ADVANCE OF THIS MATTER AND INDICATED (PER MOST RECENT GUIDANCE IN SECTO 20 (USUN 3551) OF OCTOBER 1) THAT U.S. HAS TAKEN POSITION CONSISTENTLY THAT IT DOES NOT ACCEPT ANY UNILATERAL ACTION BY ANY PARTY ON AREAS OCCUPIED IN 1967 WAR PREJUDGING ELEMENTS OF A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT, WHICH IS OUR PRIMARY OBJECTIVE.

7. ACTION REQUESTED: GOJ WOULD CLEARLY LIKE SOME ACTION BY USG ON THIS ISSUE AND IS AWAITING OUR RESPONSE AS WELL AS THAT OF UK, USSR AND FRANCE TO ABOVE DEMARCHE. EMBASSY IS IN RECEIPT OF GENERAL GUIDANCE PROVIDED BY SECRETARY IN REFTEL REGARDING U.S. POSITION CONCERNING ISRAELI CONSTRUCTION IN LANDS OCCUPIED IN 1967. WOULD APPRECIATE IT IF DEPARTMENT WOULD REVIEW THAT

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MESSAGE AND ALSO PROVIDE FURTHER GUIDANCE, IF POSSIBLE RELATED SPECIFICALLY TO U.S. POSITION AND CONTEMPLATED ACTIONS IN RESPONSE TO GOJ REQUEST ON CURRENT ISRAELI CONSTRUCTION ACTIVITIES IN GREATER JERUSALEM AREA. WOULD HOPE WE COULD HAVE SOMETHING IN HAND BY AMBASSADOR PICKERING'S RETURN ON JANUARY 6.
SUDDARTH

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